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author to give more than a mere sketch. But in this short sketch is condensed a wealth of information that is of highest value for the student. Only a few words shall be said here to direct attention to the chief features of the book.

The whole is divided in three main divisions: the *first part*, introduction, contains the discussion of general principles, part of which has been mentioned above. The two other parts are entitled: *General Zoögeography*, and *Special Zoögeography*. The *former* treats (in 9 chapters) of the general laws of animal distribution, the relation of the range of animals to space, the means of dispersal and barriers to it, the struggle for space, the difference between centre of origin, areas occupied later on, and areas of survival. Further, the principal physical conditions of life and conditions of dispersal are discussed, and finally certain typical cases of distribution are selected as examples for the laws laid down.

The *last part*, *Special Zoögeography* (17 chapters), contains first a short historical sketch of the work done previously in this line. Then follows a discussion of the schemes proposed for the division of the earth in zoögeographical units, a discussion of the scheme accepted in this work (for continental life), and a sketch of the actual distribution of selected groups of animals (Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, Amphibians, Freshwater Fishes, Insects, Land Snails, Earthworms). The last chapter treats of marine life and the laws of distribution governing it.

It is only to be regretted that the author did not have an opportunity to more fully discuss certain points, and chiefly, to go into detail with regard to the geological development of the present condition of animal distribution: but lack of space explains this. Another exception might be taken with reference to the scheme accepted for the distribution of land animals: but since this point is to a degree a matter of personal taste with the author, we shall not discuss it here.

A. E. O.

Watchers of the Trails.¹—Prof. C. D. G. Roberts' latest collection of animal stories, *The Watchers of the Trails*, does not fulfill the promise of his earlier *Kindred of the Wild*. It suggests rather the endeavor to work up the poorer ore from a once rich vein. We can not be expected to follow the fortunes of a dragon-fly larva with the same interest that held us in the story of the bull-moose, the "King

¹ Roberts, C. D. G. *The Watchers of the Trails*. Boston. L. C. Page & Co. 1904. 8vo, pp. 161. With many illustrations by Charles Livingstone Bull.

of the Mamozekel." The only distinctly new point of view in the volume under discussion is the study of domestic breeds in a wild environment. "The Alien of the Wild," describes the fortunes of a bull who is born and reared in the wilderness. London has however already entered this field in *The Call of the Wild*.

In Prof. Roberts' earlier volume there is an interesting essay on the evolution of the animal story, a sort of *confessio religionis* of the literary naturalist. We quote two sentences. "They [the naturalists of the new school] are minutely scrupulous as to their natural history, and assiduous contributors to that science. But above all they are diligent in their search for the motive beneath the action." It is significant that Prof. Roberts, to judge from this essay, seems unacquainted with the school of which Hudson (*The Naturalist in La Plata*), and Belt (*Naturalist in Nicaragua*) are noteworthy examples. The present volume contains a prefatory note in which Prof. Roberts replies briefly to the charge, made by Burroughs, "of ascribing to my animals human motives and the mental processes of man." This prefatory note is an important contribution to the literature of the animal story controversy, inasmuch as it reveals the fundamental difference in temperament between the scientist and the literary artist. Prof. Roberts claims that a boyhood spent at the edge of a great wilderness fits a sensitive, sympathetic nature to portray wild life truthfully. It certainly has fitted him to call up in his fellow-men the mood which he himself experiences in the forest gloom. It does not necessarily fit him to tell us how the animals themselves feel. Whether in this particular volume, he has always, as he claims, been at particular pains to guard against ascribing motives on insufficient evidence, it is impossible to prove one way or the other. But when we read (p. 140) that all the wild kindred near a lumber-camp, which had spoiled their hunting, despised the camp dog as a renegade and traitor, and that they would have felt more satisfaction in taking vengeance on him than on his masters, we wonder how Prof. Roberts knows their minds so intimately. That the dog was killed by a wild-cat seems to have been the only fact in his possession. He says that the wild-cat went off, "elated from his vengeance." Most juries of scientists would, we fear, sustain Mr. Burroughs' charges.

For Prof. Roberts' skill as a literary artist we have a great admiration. His story of "The Truce," in the present volume is a thoroughly admirable piece of work. The book is richly illustrated by Charles Livingstone Bull.